

Pepco Power Substation  
(Convention Center Site,  
District of Columbia)  
922 I Street, NW.  
Washington, D.C.

HABS No. DC-388

HABS,  
DC,  
WASH,  
250-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

PEPCO POWER SUBSTATION  
(Convention Center Site, District of Columbia)HABS,  
DC,  
WASH,  
250-

Location: 922 I Street, NW., Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: District of Columbia Government

Present Occupant and Use: Demolished 1979, for Washington, D.C., Convention Center Site.

Significance: This building's stone facade, solid massing and decorative elements contribute to the significance of the design. The architect, Arthur B. Heaton was a prominent Washington Architect, and received a "distinguished architecture" award from the Architectural Advisory Council for this design.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1929.
2. Architect: Arthur B. Heaton. A native Washingtonian, Heaton began his career as the Supervisory Architect for the Washington Cathedral from 1908 to 1932. Included in the many buildings Heaton design were: the YWCA at 17th and K Street, NW., the John Dickson House for Aged Men, and the Capital Garage.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Potomac Electric Power Company had the building built for themselves. The District of Columbia owned and demolished the building in 1979.

## B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form.

Prepared by:

Robert S. Lange  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
July 1980

From information compiled by:

Margaret Orelup  
National Register of Historic Places  
for a determination of Eligibility  
August 1979

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### A. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 65' wide and 133' deep, two-stories tall (plus a raised central portion).
2. Wall construction, finish and color: The granite facade varies in coloration from pink-brown to dark gray, and in texture from smooth-faced base and quoins to rock-faced walls. The facade includes only three openings; two windows at each end of the second floor, and one entrance below the eastern window.
3. Structural system: Steel and concrete.
4. Roof:
  - a. Shape: Flat.
  - b. Cornice: A bracketed, broken, masonry cornice flanks a round arched stone work centered with a base-relief panel depicting a fist clasp ing a bolt of lightning.

### B. Description of Interior:

1. The interior of this facility contained equipment related to the duties of an electric substation, in the basement, first, and second floors. Interior walls were of brick, with a tile wainscoting. In addition, the second floor contained shower and locker facilities for the men stationed here prior to automation.

### C. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: This building stood on the South-side of I Street, facing North. It, and all the buildings in the square to the north and west have been demolished to make way for the new Washington, D.C. Convention Center.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the District of Columbia Government in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the completion of the Convention Center Project. John A. Burns, AIA, and Emily J. Harris were the HABS project coordinators. Photographs were taken by R. S. Scurlock in October 1979. The written data was prepared by Robert S. Lange of the HABS Staff in July 1980, from material compiled by the National Register of Historic Places in October 1978 for a unilateral determination of eligibility.